



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Award winners' bios available

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SBA and S.C. Coalition for Small Business & Entrepreneurship Announce Winners of 2008 SBA Small Business Awards

Winners will be honored April 1 at Salute to Small Business

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The South Carolina District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the South Carolina Coalition for Small Business & Entrepreneurship and the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce will present the 2008 SBA Small Business Awards at the 5th Annual Salute to Small Business on Tuesday, April 1, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. The following are the SBA South Carolina Small Business Award winners:

- **Small Business Person of the Year:** Deborah M. Moore, Founder & CEO – AccuStat EMR (Myrtle Beach)
- **Runner-up Small Business Person of the Year:** Trudi A. Griffith, Founder & CEO – AccuScribe Transcription Solutions (Moncks Corner)
- **Young Entrepreneur of the Year:** Christopher T. Osborne, Owner & CEO – Illstreet (Spartanburg)
- **Small Business Exporter of the Year:** Cecilia M. Shepherd, President – Compass International Company, Inc. (Gilbert)
- **Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year:** Harley Funeral Home (Greenwood)
- **Women in Business Champion:** Rose E. Jackson, Founder – South Carolina Women in Business (Columbia)
- **Home-Based Business Champion, South Carolina and southeast region:** Claire F. Kuhl, Owner – V&R Consulting (Greenwood)
- **Financial Services Champion:** Samuel M. Leaman III, Assistant Director – Upper Savannah Council of Governments (Greenwood)

- **Small Business Journalist of the Year, South Carolina and the southeast region:** Michael A. Switzer, host and producer – South Carolina Business Review, ETV radio
- **Small Business Development Center Service Excellence & Innovation:** Aiken Small Business Development Center at USC-Aiken

The SBA South Carolina District Director Special Award honoree is the **Greenwood Chamber of Commerce** – *Small Business Partner of the Year*.

The winners of the 2008 South Carolina Collegiate Entrepreneurship Award program, sponsored by the Clemson University Spiro Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, will also be honored:

- Clemson University student **Michael Eaves** of **Southern Comfort Futons** – *First place*
- University of South Carolina student **Joseph Hackler, Jr.** of **Spanish Vines, Inc.** – *Runner-up*

Without the SBA's lending partners, many of South Carolina's small businesses would not have access to much-needed capital. For that reason, the SBA will recognize the state's top lending institutions for the 2007 fiscal year:

- **Number of SBA 7(a) Loans Approved**
 1. Bank of America, N.A.
 2. Superior Financial Group
 3. Innovative Bank
- **Dollar Amount of SBA 7(a) Loans Approved**
 1. Branch Banking & Trust
 2. CIT Small Business Lending
 3. Community South
- **Number of SBA 504 Loans Approved**
 1. Certified Development Corporation
 2. Appalachian Development Corporation
 3. Provident Business Financial Services, Inc. &
 3. Catawba Regional Development Corporation
- **Dollar Amount of SBA 504 Loans Approved**
 1. Certified Development Corporation
 2. Appalachian Development Corporation
 3. Provident Business Financial Services, Inc.
- **Top SBA 504 Primary Lender**
 1. South Carolina Bank & Trust

“South Carolina's entrepreneurs create jobs, gives families hope for a better life, and transform entire communities. We're celebrating their achievements, and we're

recognizing the advocates who support them and the lenders who finance them,” said Elliott Cooper, SBA South Carolina District Director.

The Salute to Small Business is open to the public and will take place at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Salute will feature a Regulatory Fairness Roundtable with SBA National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens and representatives from federal agencies; various small business workshops; matchmaking sessions with procurement officials; the SBA awards ceremony; and a legislative reception bringing legislators together with their small business constituents.

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